

creased, concealed myself close by, and after a long wait succeeded in procuring the female as she flew from the nest. At that time I knew so little about American birds or their eggs that I took no eggs except when I could authenticate them by procuring the female bird.

The nest was a comparatively slight structure, rather flat in shape, composed of small sticks and roots, lined with finer portions of the latter. The eggs, three in number, were of a clear, greenish ground color, blotched with pale brown. They were fresh. The nest was placed about fifteen feet from the ground in the extreme top of a thick willow bush. The slight cañon, with a few willow bushes in its centre bordering a small stream, lies in the midst of very dense pine timber at an altitude of about 7000 feet, as far as I can judge.

I mentioned the fact of my having taken the nest of the Evening Grosbeak to my friend, Mr. E. W. Nelson, but at first he was decidedly sceptical on the subject. On November 5, 1885, however, while staying at Mr. Nelson's ranch, eight miles southwest of Springerville, and during a slight snowstorm, I saw a second specimen of this species among a large number of Mexican Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*) but failed to kill it. Next day (Nov. 6), while riding near the same place with Mr. Nelson, we came upon three Evening Grosbeaks, and after several shots he succeeded in killing a fine male with a charge of buckshot! These are the only occasions that I have known of this bird being seen anywhere around here, but ornithological observers here are few and far between.—JOHN SWINBURNE, *Springerville, Arizona*.

[Mr. Swinburne is probably the first ornithologist who has had the good fortune to find the nest of this species, although Mr. W. E. Bryant's later discovery has already been recorded.*—ED.]

Occurrence of *Coccothraustes vespertina* in Iowa.—Among other visitors from the north, during the winter of 1886-87, numbers of Evening Grosbeaks appeared in this neighborhood. About the middle of December several were observed a short distance north of the city, but it was not until the first of February that they began to appear in the principal streets. When first noticed in the town, there was a flock of twenty-five or more feeding upon the samaræ which were still attached to the branches of the box elders. The kernels of the keys were quickly and adroitly removed and the refuse allowed to fall upon the snow beneath, which after a short time was thickly strewn with the remains of the feast. February 23 a flock of over one hundred suddenly appeared on the University campus, and after remaining an hour or more, departed. From this date until April 30, nearly ten weeks, it was their custom to visit the campus early in the morning and remain until noon, when they would fly away and spend the remainder of the day elsewhere. During their stay the food of these birds consisted chiefly of the samaræ of the box elders and sugar maples, the young leaf buds of various trees, seeds, and

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grain; to obtain the latter, the whole flock would often alight on the ground and eagerly devour the scattered grain. As spring advanced they were usually seen, especially early in the morning, in the top of some tree, singing or chattering noisily, thus attracting the attention of nearly every passer-by. Their loud, clear, rather harsh, piping notes, uttered in concert, reminded one forcibly of the familiar chorus of a flock of Rusty Blackbirds in the spring, and have also been likened to the shrill piping arising from some frog pond on a quiet summer evening. In Iowa, the Evening Grosbeak may be regarded as a rare and erratic winter visitor, though its appearance is perhaps most regular in the northern portions of the State. It arrives from the north about the middle of November and remains until May. Prior to last winter it has been observed in the vicinity of Iowa City but once—in February, 1884. Correspondents have also reported this species from Charles City, in March, 1879; Grinnell, December and April, and Burlington in the southeastern part of the State.—C. R. KEYES, *Iowa City, Iowa.*

Loxia curvirostra minor again at Yemassee, S. C.—On November 20, 1887, two Red Crossbills were seen at Yemassee, S. C., by my collector who shot large numbers in April for me. —ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Charleston, S. C.*

A Philadelphia Vireo and a Cobweb.—On September 13, 1886, while collecting in a thicket near Bardstown, Kentucky, my companion, a small boy, called my attention to the peculiar actions of a bird eight or ten paces in advance of us. It proved to be a Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphica*) suspended by the tip of its right wing from a twig at a distance of three or four feet from the ground, violently struggling to free itself. Flying above, within a few feet of it, was another individual of the same species, an apparently interested and distressed witness of the strange performance. Both birds were shot, and upon examination I discovered that the first one had become entangled in a sticky, cobwebby substance that was found to be quite common during that season in the locality mentioned. The end of the wing was completely 'gummed up' with the viscons filaments, and the struggles of the captive had twisted the web into a slender and elastic but strong cord, the other end of which was attached to the twig. The webs in question I found only in thickets, and had been much annoyed by often running against them and getting the glutinous stuff on my face and hands. It is doubtless produced by some spider, but I have never recognized the species. However, I think it improbable that the wily Arachnid deliberately attempts the capture of such large game, and in this particular instance it was doubtless as much surprised as the cockney sportsman in 'Punch,' who fired at a hare and killed a calf.—CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM, *Washington, D. C.*

Helminthophila leucobronchialis in Pennsylvania.—A specimen of this bird was taken, August 31, 1887, in the central part of Chester Co.,